Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /152 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, ETRD

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN SUIT AGAINST OIL COMPANIES

- 1. THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE HIGH COURT TO PASS JUDGMENT IN ABSENTIA AGAINST SEVEN OIL COMPANIES CHARGED WITH VIOLATING U.N. SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. THE SEVEN COMPANIES, ALL OF WHOM FAILED TO RESPOND TO A WRIT SERVED BY THE HIGH COURT, ARE RHODESIAN BASED FIRMS INCLUDING MOBIL OIL SOUTHERN RHODESIA (PVT) AND CALTEX OIL (PVT) LIMITED.
- 2. THREE ZAMBIAN BASED COMPANIES, CALTEX OIL ZAMBIA, MOBIL OIL ZAMBIA AND TOTAL OIL ZAMBIA HAVE ALREADY ENTERED AN APPEARANCE AND WILL DEFEND THEMSELVES IN THE SUIT. WRITS ON OTHER NON-ZAMBIAN BASED COMPANIES INCLUDING SHELL/BP, CALTEX AND MOBIL HEAD OFFICES HAVE BEEN SERVED. ACCORDING TO THE ZAMBIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE GRZ IS STILL WAITING FOR A RESPONSE FROM THESE COMPANIES. WHEN THE TIME PERMITTED FOR A RESPONSE TO THESE WRITS HAS EXPIRED, THE GRZ WILL PROCEED WITH THE CLAIM ON THOSE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE ENTERED AN APPEARANCE.

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3. FYI: SHELL/BP, MOBIL, AND CALTEX HEAD OFFICES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO RESPOND TO THE WRIT BECAUSE IN THEIR OPINION ZAMBIAN COURTS HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER THEIR OPERATIONS. END FYI: LOW

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